

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 6-15, 17-20 and 22-34 remain in the application. Claims 2-5, 16, 21, and 35-46 have been cancelled. Applicant appreciates and acknowledges the indication the claims 4 and 6 include allowable subject matter and that claims 21 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejections. As detailed below, Applicant believes the §112 rejections have been overcome. Applicant has added all of the features of claim 4 into independent claim 1 from which claim 4 depended. Applicant has also added all of the features of claim 21 into independent claim 20 from which claim 21 depended. Remaining claims 6-15 and 17-19 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1. Remaining claims 22-34 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 20.

Claim Rejections

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that claim 21 is inconsistent with claim 20, from which it depends, because claim 20 states that the pressing belt exit section is arranged to be capable to support and convey objects, but in claim 21 the exit point is stated to be in the upper area of the periphery of the processing drum. Claim 21 (as incorporated into claim 20) has been amended to reverse the claimed

positions of the entry and exit points such that amended claim 20 is consistent throughout.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 (as incorporated into claim 20) under §112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 22 stands rejected under §112 because the term "the further belt" lacks antecedent basis. By adding all of the features of claim 21 into claim 20, claim 20 now provides the proper antecedent basis for claim 22 that depends therefrom.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 under §112 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10-13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 26-29, 31-33, 35, 38-41 and 43-45 stand rejected as being anticipated by WO 00/64738. Because claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 4 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claims 10-13, 15 and 17-18 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, and claim 20 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 21 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claims 26-29 and 31-33 depend directly or indirectly from claim 20, and claims 35-46 have been cancelled, it is believed that the rejection of the claims over WO 00/64738 is moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 20, 24 and 35-37 stand rejected as being anticipated by GB 1409077. Because claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 4 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claims 7 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, and claim 20 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 21 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claim 24 depends from claim 20, and claims 35-46 have been cancelled, it is believed that the

rejection of the claims over GB 1409077 is moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected as being unpatentable over WO 00/64738 in view of U.S. 3,616,042. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled, thus, this rejection is believed to be moot.

Claims 9 and 25 stand rejected as being unpatentable over WO 00/64738. Because claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 4 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claim 9 depends directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, and claim 20 has been amended to included all of the features of claim 21 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claim 25 depends directly from claim 20, it is believed that the rejection of the claims over WO 00/64738 is moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 19, 30, 34, 42 and 46 stand rejected as being unpatentable over WO 00/64738. Because claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features of claim 4 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claims 14, 19 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, and claim 20 has been amended to included all of the features of claim 21 (which was indicated as being allowable) and claims 30, 34 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 20, and claims 35, 42 and 46 have been cancelled, it is believed that the rejection of the claims over WO 00/64738 is moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If clarification of the amendment or application is desired, or if issues are present which the Examiner believes may be quickly resolved, the Examiner is invited to

initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. FRR-15905.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By /James A. Balazs/
James A. Balazs, Reg. No. 47401

4080 Erie Street
Willoughby, Ohio 44094-7836
(216) 566-9700